



NASA Space Place

Educator Newsletter

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!

It's dynamic!

It's fun!

It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!

It's informal.

It's meaty.

It's easy to read

and understand.

It's also in Spanish.

And it's free!

It has over 150 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space, Earth science, and technology.

Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, the NASA Space Place Gazette!

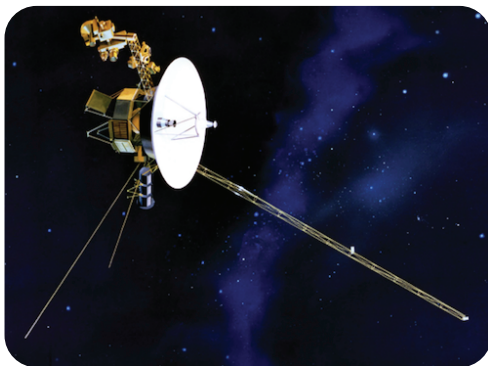
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/subscribe>

New!

Voyager 1 and 2: The Interstellar Mission

The Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft launched from Earth in 1977. Their mission was to explore Jupiter and Saturn—and beyond to the outer planets of our solar system. Learn more:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/voyager-to-planets>



New!

What is gravity?

Gravity is the force by which a planet or other body draws objects toward its center. The force of gravity keeps all of the planets in orbit around the sun. What else does gravity do? Go here to find out!

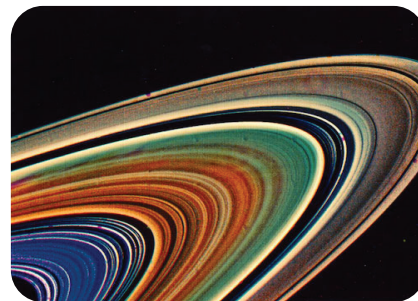
<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/what-is-gravity>

Saturn's Rings

Saturn's rings are about 400,000 kilometers (240,000 miles) wide.

That's the distance from the Earth to the moon! They range from particles too tiny to see to "particles" the size of a bus. Scientists think they are icy snowballs or ice covered rocks. Learn more:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/saturn-rings>



JunoQuest

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. But, there is still a lot about this gas giant that we don't know. NASA's Juno spacecraft is currently helping scientists learn more. Play JunoQuest and help Juno take us a giant step forward in our understanding of how giant planets form and what part they play in putting together the rest of the solar system:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/junoquest>

Summer Activities

Looking for fun, educational activities for the summer? Check out these links below:

Make Sun Paper:

Our sun is a burning ball of superheated gas. Even though it's 93 million miles (149.6 million kilometers) away, we can feel its heat and light on Earth. Make this marbled paper that looks just like our sun!

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-paper>

Bake Sunspot Cookies:

Even when the sun appears to be shining as brightly as ever to us, it sometimes has some dark spots called sunspots. Learn more with this simple and delicious activity:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sunspot-cookies>



Make Ultraviolet Handprint Art:

In this activity, see how sunscreen can be used to block the sun's ultraviolet light rays.

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sunscreen-activity>

Make a Pinwheel Galaxy:

The Pinwheel Galaxy is a spiral-shaped galaxy about 21 million light years away from Earth. Scientists call this swirling galaxy M101. Make a Pinwheel Galaxy pinwheel!

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/pinwheel-galaxy>

Special Days

Noteworthy days in NASA and space history you can observe in your classroom.

May 5 — Alan Shepard became the first American in space on this day in 1961.

See more astronauts in action in our gallery:
<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-technology>

May 6 — Today is peak viewing time for the Eta Aquarids meteor shower.

What's the difference between an asteroid and meteor?

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/asteroid-or-meteor>

May 26 — Astronaut Sally Ride was born on this day in 1951.

She was the first American woman to fly in space! Learn more:

<https://go.nasa.gov/2jtoYHo>

June 8 — Happy World Oceans Day!

Did you know that water covers 71% of Earth's surface, and 96.5% of it is salt water?

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ocean-currents>

June 20 — Today is the first day of summer.

Why does Earth have seasons?

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/seasons>

June 22 — Pluto's moon Charon was discovered on this day in 1978.

Learn more about Pluto and its moons.

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ice-dwarf>

